

**REMARKS**

Receipt of the Office Action of January 10, 2008 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 14 - 26 have been examined. Of these claims, claims 14, 16, 19, 20 and 21 have been objected to, claims 14 - 18 and 21 - 23 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) by Beijik et al, and claims 19, 20 and 24 - 26 indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

To place this application in condition for allowance, claims 14, 16, 19, 20, 21, and 23 - 26 have been amended to overcome the noted objection and to more identify the novelty of the invention over the art of record. As amended, claims 14 -26 are believed to be clear and to define the invention clearly and patentably distinctively over the art of record.

According to the present invention as claimed, it is clear that the measuring point is intermittently operated in an operating mode and in a test mode. This means that the measuring point is formed only by two electrodes or half cells, respectively: the reference half cell and the measuring half cell.

Beijk et al discloses an electrode system for measuring an ion concentration in a solution and a method and device for testing the integrity of an electrode of this electrode system (cf. col. 1, lines 1 - 4). The electrode system comprises a reference electrode (3), a glass electrode (4) and an equalization electrode (5), i.e., three electrodes in total (cf. col. 3, lines 55 - 59). For pH-measurement, a circuit comprising the glass electrode (4) and the reference electrode (3) is used, without involving the equalization electrode (5) (cf. col. 65 to col. 4, line 20). For testing the reference electrode (3), a circuit involving the reference electrode (3) and the equalization electrode (5) is used, without involving the glass electrode (4) (cf. col. 4, line 67 to col. 5, line 12, and col. 5, lines 16 - 18). In other words, the method for testing the reference

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electrode disclosed in Beijk et al requires a third electrode. This is not the case with the present invention, as should now be clear in the amended claims.

Neither Beijk et al, nor any of the references of record including those cited in the International Search report teaches or suggests operating a measuring point with a reference half cell and a measuring half cell intermittently operating in an operating mode and in a test mode, and without this teaching claims 14 - 26 cannot be considered anticipated or unpatenable.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 14 - 26 allowed.

Respectfully submitted,  
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